

EXHIBIT 6
DATE 1-10-13
HB 115

Subject: Slaughter of Alternative Livestock in Montana

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Date: Wed, 9 Jan 2013 19:06:36 -0700

To: "Gary \ (MT Meat Insp\) Hamel" <ghamel@mt.gov>, "Matt Elvbakken" <tizer1@qwestoffice.net>

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I fully endorse the bill introduced by Christy Clark which if passed would allow meat plants inspected by the Montana Department of Livestock to slaughter and process alternative livestock such as rabbits, deer and elk.

USDA-inspected plants already have the right to process such animals, and ship the meat into interstate commerce. Montana plants should have the same privilege, for shipment into Montana commerce.

Passage of this bill will provide additional marketing opportunities for Montana livestock producers, additional processing work for Montana meat plants, and provide additional sources of Montana-raised protein to consumers. All protein impacted by this bill would be inspected by Montana Department of Livestock inspectors, ensuring that sanitation and food safety imperatives have been met.

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